



## 2019 LAW DAY THEME

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LAW ★ DAY  
2019



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**SOUTH CAROLINA BAR**  
**SENIOR LAWYERS DIVISION**  
STATEWIDE LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST  
**2019 AWARDS PACKET**

**Open to all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Public School,  
Private School, and Homeschooled Students**

**THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAW DAY 2019 THEME**  
**Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society**

In the United States and around the world, freedom of speech and the press are among the most important foundations for a free society. Free speech and free press are prominent topics in public discourse and litigation. It is impossible to imagine a free society without these individual liberties, yet historical and current debates surrounding them continually challenge us to consider their boundaries and resilience. Changes in technology have reshaped how free speech and free press work in the everyday world.

Law Day 2019 offers the opportunity to explore this pair of freedoms by probing their history and considering their future. Should all speech be “free?” What is the role of government in regulating or protecting the press? Should speech or the press be constrained through laws or norms? Can a free society exist without free speech and free press?

The 2019 Law Day theme—Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society—focuses on these cornerstones of representative government and calls on us to understand and protect these rights to ensure, as the U.S. Constitution proposes, “the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.”

**WHAT IS LAW DAY?**

Established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day celebrates the American heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1st as the official date for celebrating Law Day. Every year, Law Day provides legal professionals and others with opportunities to help students and the public understand how the law protects our freedoms.

**2019 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC INTRODUCTION**

When announcing the 2019 Law Day Theme, Bob Carlson, American Bar Association President, stated the following:

Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are widely regarded as foundations for a free society. George Washington insisted "If freedom of speech is taken away then, dumb and silent, we may be led like sheep to the slaughter" and Thomas Jefferson asserted "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press and that cannot be limited without being lost". Today freedom of speech and freedom of the press dominate public discourse and debate. Significant disagreements over the scope and limits of these rights may even be litigated in the courts. It is hard to imagine a free society without these individual liberties. Law Day 2019 offers the opportunity to explore this pair of freedoms by probing their history and considering their future. Should all speech be free? What is the role of government in regulating or protecting the press? Should free speech or the press be constrained through laws or norms? Can a free society exist without free speech and free press?

The 2019 Law Day theme, free speech, free press, free society focuses attention on these fundamental freedoms and it calls on us to protect these rights and to secure what the US Constitution promises, the blessings of liberty to ourselves, and our posterity.

**2019 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC**

Each student participant must write an essay of 1,000 words or less on this topic:

**Explain how free speech and a free press safeguard America from tyranny.**

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The following discussion points have been provided as a suggested approach; however, they are not mandatory, and creativity is encouraged:

- a) **Discuss why free speech and a free press are considered foundations to a free society.**
- b) **Discuss an historical event that was shaped by having freedom of speech and a free press.**
- c) **How is our democratic system of government benefited by having free speech and a free press?**
- d) **Why are free speech and a free press considered cornerstones of a representative government?**

**ESSAY DIRECTIONS**

Each essay writer is required to adhere to the following:

- 1) Submit a typewritten essay in a 12-point font and include all attached documents:
  - The student's name, home address, home phone number, and grade level.
  - Essay title.
  - School name, address, phone number, and educator's name (if applicable).
  - Name of local newspaper(s).
  - Documentation of all research on the enclosed Works Cited page or an attached sheet (if applicable).
- 2) Forward all to an English Language Arts (ELA) or Social Studies (SS) teacher to submit the given essays and application forms.
- 3) **DO NOT PUT THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE ESSAY ITSELF.**

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Each English Language Arts and/or Social Studies teacher may submit two (2) essays per grade level from his or her respective school for consideration for the pre-selection judging. However, more than (2) essays may be submitted if it is the teacher's opinion that additional essays are worthy of consideration. The essays will be read and assessed by Judge Hayes and members of the South Carolina Circuit Court Judges Association. The overall winner, his family, and teacher will be invited to the Annual State Bar Association Convention where the student will be recognized.

All public school, private school and home-schooled participants' essays must be submitted to Judge Mark Hayes by **noon on Friday, June 7, 2019**. All essays along with the appropriate cover sheets are to be submitted to the following address:

Judge J. Mark Hayes, II  
Spartanburg County Courthouse  
180 Magnolia Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29306  
Office: (864) 562-4144 Fax: (864) 562-4142

### **AWARDS**

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$ 500
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$ 500
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$ 500
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$ 500
Overall Winner	\$1,000

Cash awards, medals and certificates will be presented to the recipients. Winning essays may be submitted to the local newspaper for publication and also to other organizations for possible publication and release to the general public.

### **ESSAYS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

Students from participating schools will submit essays to a school official (teacher, administrator, etc.) for pre-selection.

School submissions should include:

- 1) Essays and corresponding entry forms, including any source citations and parental release forms (if applicable);
- 2) A list of all other students who prepared essays for this contest. (Judge Hayes would like to recognize the efforts of all participants).

### **ESSAYS FROM STUDENTS WHOSE SCHOOLS ARE NOT PARTICIPATING OR WHO ARE HOME-SCHOOLED**

Students whose schools are not participating or who are not affiliated with a school may send entries directly to Judge Hayes for consideration.

- 1) Essays and corresponding entry forms, including any source citations and parental release forms (if applicable);
- 2) A student who is affiliated with a non-participating school or class must provide the school's name, address, telephone number, and indicate on the form that the school or class is not participating.

Essay Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Entry #: \_\_\_\_\_

**2019 Law Day Essay Contest Judging Criteria**  
**ESSAY THEME:**  
**Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society**

Assign a point value (1 – 10) to each of the following questions. One point indicates the lowest mark and 10, the highest.

**Structure/Content**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay contain an introduction, a descriptive body and a conclusion?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the data correct and in a clear and logical and/or sequential order?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay exhibit good language skills: proper spelling, syntax and grammar?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the references to sources (Constitution, Bill of Rights, cases, etc.) correct?

**Creativity/Originality**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay have some sense of originality and creativity?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the ideas good and well-developed?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay creatively develop the theme and does not deviate?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay contain the writer's personal views and comments?

**General Appearance**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the format neat/typed or written legibly?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the cover sheet attached and correct?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Points (100 points maximum)**

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**COVER SHEET**

**2019 Law Day Essay Contest**  
**DEADLINE: JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 AT 12:00 NOON**

A copy of this sheet must accompany each essay submitted in the 2019 Law Day Essay Contest. All of the information on this sheet must be completed and must not appear on the essay.

Entry Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (will be assigned by Law Day Essay Contest Committee)

**Please PRINT all information in blue ink.**

Grade Category: Grade 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Grade 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Grade 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Grade 12 \_\_\_\_\_

**ESSAY TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street/PO Box) City State Zip

Student's Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street/PO Box) City State Zip

Name of Teacher Submitting Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Local Newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Words: \_\_\_\_\_ (not to exceed 1,000)

**Mail the completed cover sheet ATTACHED to your essay to:**

Judge Mark Hayes  
180 Magnolia Street  
Spartanburg County Courthouse  
Spartanburg, SC 29306  
Office: (864) 562-4144 Fax: (864) 562-4142

